



NEWS RELEASE

GOVERNOR'S COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 22, 2003

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NEW PHARMACY ADVISORY BOARD NAMED BOARD TO HELP TENNCARE IMPLEMENT STATEWIDE PREFERRED DRUG LIST

NASHVILLE - As part of an effort to bring the costs of TennCare under control and make the program run more efficiently, Governor Phil Bredesen today announced appointees to a new Pharmacy Advisory Board.

The Pharmacy Advisory Board, comprised of a diverse group of medical providers from across the state, will oversee the development of a "Preferred Drug List" (PDL) in TennCare. This new PDL will streamline things for pharmacists and providers as well as hopefully help bring spiraling pharmacy costs under control.

"Unless medical providers are involved in the development of a TennCare Preferred Drug List, it will not work," Bredesen said. "We're committed to controlling TennCare drug costs, and we know that this must be done by making the right decisions for patient care."

The 15-member board will be comprised of representatives from major professional organizations and stakeholder groups from across the state - including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, MCO organizations, advocacy groups, etc. Under the legislation passed this Spring by the General Assembly, members are named based on nominations from specific professional organizations.

The committee will be made up of nine appointees from the Governor's Office, two from the Speaker of the House, two from the Lieutenant Governor, and two ex-officio members from TennCare (Medical Director Dr. David Hollis and Pharmacy Director Leo Sullivan).

Members were selected from a list of over thirty recommendations submitted by medical provider organizations, TennCare health plans and consumer advocates. The Governor's appointees include:

Quinn Caper, I.V., M.D.

Cardiologist with Page-Campbell Cardiology Group and a Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine (Nashville)

Lisa D'Souza

Representative of the Advocate Community, Attorney with the Tennessee Justice Center (Nashville)

Peter Frizzell, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at East Tennessee State University and President of the Tennessee Psychiatric Association (Johnson City)

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James King, M.D.

Family Physician in private practice (Selmer)

Diane Todd Pace, Ph.D., R.N., F.N.P.

Advanced Practice Nurse, Shelby County Healthcare Network/The Regional Medical Center (Cordova)

James Powers, M.D.

Internal Medicine Specialist with Geriatrics Specialty Certification, Nashville Veterans Administration Hospital & Vanderbilt Hospital (Nashville)

Terry Shea, Pharm.D.

Director of Pharmacy Services, BlueCross/BlueShield of Tennessee (Chattanooga)

Sheila Spates, Pharm.D.

Pharmacist, CVS Pharmacies (Knoxville)

William Terrell, M.D.

Pediatrician in private practice, Memphis and Shelby County Pediatric Group (Memphis)

In addition to the members appointed by the Governor, the Board will also include two appointees named by Speaker Jimmy Naifeh:

Stanley Dowell, M.D.

Internal Medicine Physician, Eastmoreland Internal Medicine and President of Bluff City Medical Society (Memphis)

Lynn Knott, Pharm.D., C.G.P., F.A.S.C.P.

Regional Pharmacist, National HealthCare Corp, and Director of Consulting Services, Network HealthCare of Franklin (Brentwood)

The board will also include two appointments made by Lieutenant Governor John Wilder:

Edward Capparelli, M.D.

Family Physician in private practice (Newport)

Alan Corley, Pharm.D.

Pharmacist, Corley's Pharmacy (Greeneville)

On July 1, TennCare moved all drug benefits under the management of a single pharmacy benefit manager, netting an estimated initial savings of \$90 million through federal drug rebates that were not available by allowing TennCare managed care organizations to administer most drug benefits. TennCare officials are now researching the nine highest-volume drug classes in hopes of having recommendations for the Pharmacy Review Board to consider later this summer. The state stands to more than double its savings through the implementation of a PDL.

"We'll implement the PDL in phases over the next several months, working with providers and pharmacists to design the PDL and to assure a smooth transition for TennCare enrollees," said TennCare Director Manny Martins.

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